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Message Text

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63
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01

AF-10 DRC-01 /148 W
---------- 105543
R 081730Z FEB 74
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6434
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, ICFTU
SUBJECT: ICFTU LEADER DISCUSSED BLANCHARD CANDIDACY FOR ILO
DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN BELIEVES BLANCHARD WILL BE ELECTED ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BY A LARGE MARGIN. ACCORDING TO AN UNOFFICIAL ICFTU POLL, BLANCHARD IS ALREADY ASSURED OF 35 OF THE 47 TOTAL VOTES. THE ICFTU HAS NOT YET ENDORSED A CANDIDATE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 7 ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KERSTEN STATED THAT BLANCHARD'S ELECTION AS ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL IS A CERTAINTY. HE MADE THIS STATEMENT TO A GROUP OF SOCIAL AND LABOR ATTACHES ACCREDITED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES FROM AUSTRIA, CANADA, GERMANY, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED STATES. KERSTEN TOLD US THAT THE USG AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE SUPPORTING BLANCHARD'S CANDIDACY AND THAT
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AN UNOFFICIAL ICFTU TALLY INDICATES BLANCHARD PROBABLY

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ALREADY HAS 35 VOTES ASSURED.

3. KERSTEN SAID THE ICFTU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL BE CHOSEN FROM THE WORKERS GROUP OR AT LEAST FROM THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAID THIS WAS NO LONGER FEASIBLE BUT HE THINKS THERE IS APOSSIBILITY OF ELECTING WORKER GROUP REPRESENTATIVE AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL.

4. KERSTEN REPORTED THAT SEVERAL OVERTURES WERE MADE BY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND TRADE UNIONS ASKING ICFTU SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDACY OF ALBERT TEVEODJRE. HOWEVER, KERSTEN IDICATED THAT TEVEODJRE HAD AT SOME TIME IN THE PST URGED ICFTU AFRCIAN AFFILIATES TO DISAFFILIATE FROM THE ICFTU AND COULD HARDLY EXPECT ICFTU SUPPORT. MYERSON

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